



House Select Committee on Homeland Security **Democrats**

JIM TURNER, Ranking Member

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TURNER: US-VISIT HAS POTENTIAL, BUT SECURITY AND BORDER ISSUES MUST BE ADDRESSED

“Our obligation is to assess the effectiveness of this program as a counter-terrorism tool. While I believe US-VISIT has potential, there are many issues that need to be addressed, said Congressman Jim Turner, Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security.

“I am a strong believer that border security systems and programs are only as good as the intelligence they are able to access.”

“Right now, data collected by US VISIT is not being compared against a comprehensive terrorist watch list,” Turner said at a hearing on the US VISIT Program before the Subcommittee on Infrastructure and Border Security.

“We know that US-VISIT implementation is not going to be easy. The challenge is greatest at our land borders.

Citing concerns of border communities, Turner said, “We must also work with Mexico and Canada to ensure that implementation does not result in a gridlock at our borders. If we cannot secure the cooperation of our neighbors in implementing the US-VISIT system, it simply will not succeed. We can only achieve all of the goals of an effective entry-exit system--- homeland security and economic security--- if our vision includes investing in ports of entry and in border communities.”

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